

the principle of fairness embedded in current law which dictates that different families with the same total income should be treated equally for tax purposes. The leading bill last Congress sought to fix the marriage penalty in a manner that would have inadvertently penalized families that chose to have one parent stay at home.

I made this point when I testified before the Ways and Means Committee in support of a marriage tax proposal Representative BOB RILEY and I developed, which doubled the standard deduction for married couples to twice that of singles. The legislation essentially also doubled the tax brackets of married couples to twice that of singles. One income families often have the toughest time making ends meet, particularly if they are raising children.

I am gratified that the marriage penalty bill the House will pass today embraces the approach developed in the tax bill I proposed with Mr. RILEY. The Marriage Tax Relief Act would eliminate or substantially reduce the penalty for virtually every couple currently burdened by the tax. Furthermore, marriage penalty relief would be targeted to primarily benefit low and middle-income families.

Critics complain that this legislation is too expensive or would provide so-called bonuses to families in which one spouse stays at home to raise children. Indeed, it would require Washington to give back billions of dollars to America's families. And yes, the bill as drafted would lighten the tax burden for certain families sustained by a single income. However, the preservation and security of the smallest, yet most important unit of government—the family—is too important to shortchange with more economical, but less effective proposals. Additionally, it simply isn't fair to require married couples who prefer parent-care over daycare to pay more in taxes.

For years, the Tax Code has been used to penalize the creation and maintenance of cohesive family units. This is foolish and unfair. The Marriage Tax Relief Act of 2000 will put an end to this discrimination and I urge the Senate to immediately pass this legislation and send it on to the President.

TRIBUTE TO HONDA OF SOUTH CAROLINA

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2000

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of my colleagues the recent announcement by Honda of South Carolina Manufacturing, Inc. (HSC) located in the Sixth Congressional District, to expand its current all-terrain vehicle (ATV) plant in Timmonsville, South Carolina. On January 21, 2000, HSC broke ground on a new \$20 million engine manufacturing operation. The new expansion will allow HSC to produce an engine currently made in Japan and will lead to the hiring of an additional 200 associates.

HSC began ATC production in July 1998. The expansion will increase Honda's total investment in HSC to more than \$70 million. When the new engine operation reaches full capacity in 2001, HSC will have an annual production capacity of 150,000 ATVs and engines and will employ approximately 625 asso-

ciates. Construction of the 50,000 square foot expansion for engine machining and casting will begin immediately and will be completed by late summer. Upon completion, the plant will total 330,000 square feet.

Honda's ATV sales in America grew more than 20% in 1999. In addition, 20% of the products manufactured at HSC are exported to overseas markets including Australia, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom.

Mr. Speaker, please join with me in saluting Honda of South Carolina Manufacturing, Inc. on their newest expansion. The Sixth Congressional District and the State of South Carolina are grateful for Honda's investment in our State and look forward to a long and prosperous business partnership.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2000

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, due to necessary medical treatment, I was not present for the following votes. If I had been present, I would have voted as follows:

JANUARY 31, 2000

Rollcall vote 2, on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H. Con. Res. 244, Authorizing the Use of the Rotunda for Holocaust Memorial, I would have voted "yea".

Rollcall vote 3, on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 2130, the Hillary J. Farias and Samantha Reid Date-Rape Prevention Drug Act, I would have voted "yea".

FEBRUARY 1, 2000

Rollcall vote 4, on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 764, the Child Abuse Prevention and Enforcement Act, I would have voted "yea".

Rollcall vote 5, on passage of H.R. 1838, the Taiwan Security Enhancement Act, I would have voted "yea".

Rollcall vote 6, on the motion to instruct conferees for H.R. 2990 the Bipartisan Consensus Managed Care Improvement Act, I would have voted "nay".

FEBRUARY 2, 2000

Rollcall vote 7, on passage of H.R. 2005, the Workplace Goods Job Growth and Competitiveness Act, I would have voted "yea".

CHANGE IN CROATIA

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2000

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, in October of last year, I expressed concerns in this Chamber on the condition of democracy in Croatia. At that time, the leadership of Croatia was resisting the transition towards free elections, stalling the construction of democratic institutions, flaunting the rule of law, and squashing ethnic diversity. Those that held power were maintaining it in two significant ways. The first was through the manipulation of the political system to their advantage, including, in particular, efforts to control the media and the unwillingness to allow free and

fair elections. Second, there was heavy reliance on nationalist passions for support. Zagreb's policies swayed the loyalties of Croats in neighboring Bosnia and made it difficult for the displaced Serb population to return to the country.

Since last October, things have changed drastically and for the better. In the Parliamentary election of January 3, the desire of the people for change was manifested as the party that had ruled since the fall of communism was defeated by an opposition coalition led by the new Prime Minister, Ivica Racan. Meanwhile, in a special presidential election on February 7 to succeed the late Franjo Tudjman, Stipe Mesic won on promises of reform, of a more democratic political system with diminished power for the presidency, of greater cooperation with The Hague in the prosecution of war criminals, of progress in the implementation of the Dayton Accords in Bosnia, and of the return of Croatia's displaced Serb population. These changes have been universally applauded, specifically by Secretary of State Madeleine Albright during her visit to Croatia on February 2. In fact, Mr. Speaker, I join the Secretary of State in commending the new policies of Croatia's leaders, and I compliment our able Ambassador to Croatia, William Montgomery, for his role in pressing for democratic change.

Mr. Speaker, it is good that Croatia's new leadership is talking about substantial reform. However, we must be sure that it is not just talk. We must be sure to encourage Croatia to move closer towards full freedom, true justice, and greater prosperity for all of her citizens, regardless of ethnicity. We must continue to press for the surrender to The Hague of those indicted for war crimes. As we do, we must be ready to support Croatia, even as we have been ready to criticize Croatia's shortcomings in the past. Recent violence in southeastern Europe underscores the need for true democracy in the region.

In closing, I congratulate Croatia's new leadership and its promise of progress. Now that reform is on the horizon, I am hopeful that Croatia will soon be an integrated partner in European affairs.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROD R. BLAGOJEVICH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2000

Mr. BLAGOJEVICH. Mr. Speaker, due to flight delays out of Chicago yesterday, I was unable to make the vote on rollcall vote No. 16 on H. Con. Res. 247 and vote No. 17 on H. Con. Res. 76. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on both votes. I would ask that my votes be reflected in the RECORD.

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL DEBONIS

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2000

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a distinguished young man, Michael DeBonis, for attaining the rank of